chemthink isotopes

chemthink isotopes are a fundamental concept in chemistry that pertains to the variations of elements differing in neutron number while sharing the same number of protons. Understanding isotopes is crucial for various scientific fields, including nuclear chemistry, analytical techniques, and radiometric dating. This article delves into the detailed study of chemthink isotopes, exploring their definitions, types, applications, and significance in both theoretical and practical contexts. Emphasizing the importance of isotopic variations, this discussion also highlights how chemthink isotopes contribute to advancements in medical diagnostics, environmental science, and industrial processes. Readers will gain a comprehensive overview of isotope stability, notation, and real-world examples. The following sections provide a structured outline for exploring chemthink isotopes thoroughly.

- Understanding Chemthink Isotopes
- Types of Isotopes
- Notation and Representation of Isotopes
- Applications of Chemthink Isotopes
- Stability and Radioactivity
- Role of Isotopes in Scientific Research

Understanding Chemthink Isotopes

At the core of chemthink isotopes is the idea that atoms of the same element can have different numbers of neutrons, resulting in distinct isotopic forms. This variation affects atomic mass but not chemical properties, as the number of protons (atomic number) remains constant. Isotopes are integral in distinguishing elements and understanding atomic structure. The concept helps explain natural abundance and isotopic distribution in nature, providing insight into atomic behavior and elemental identities.

Definition and Basic Concepts

An isotope is an atom of an element that has the same number of protons but a different number of neutrons in its nucleus. This leads to differences in atomic mass while maintaining chemical similarity. For example, carbon has isotopes like carbon-12 and carbon-14, where the numbers represent the total nucleons (protons plus neutrons). Understanding this distinction is essential for grasping isotoperelated phenomena.

Importance in Chemistry

Chemthink isotopes play a vital role in chemical reactions and molecular behavior. Since isotopes of the same element share identical electron configurations, their chemical properties are nearly identical. However, subtle differences in physical properties, such as mass and nuclear stability, can influence reaction rates and mechanisms, making isotopes valuable tools in experimental chemistry.

Types of Isotopes

Chemthink isotopes are categorized based on their nuclear stability and occurrence. Broadly, isotopes fall into two primary categories: stable and radioactive (unstable). Both types have distinct characteristics and applications in various scientific disciplines.

Stable Isotopes

Stable isotopes do not undergo radioactive decay and remain constant over time. These isotopes are naturally abundant and frequently used in studies involving environmental tracing, biological processes, and geochemical cycles. Common examples include oxygen-16 and nitrogen-14.

Radioactive Isotopes

Radioactive isotopes, also known as radioisotopes, are unstable and decay over time, emitting radiation in the process. This characteristic makes them valuable in medical imaging, cancer treatment, and radiometric dating. Examples include uranium-238 and iodine-131.

Isotopes in Nature

The natural occurrence of isotopes varies by element, with some elements having multiple stable isotopes and others primarily comprising radioactive forms. The relative abundance shapes the isotopic signature of materials, influencing scientific analyses such as isotope geochemistry and forensic investigations.

Notation and Representation of Isotopes

Proper notation is essential for accurately identifying chemthink isotopes in scientific communication. Isotopic notation conveys information about atomic number, mass number, and elemental identity in a standardized format.

Isotope Notation Format

The standard notation for an isotope places the element symbol in the center, with the mass number as a superscript to the left and the atomic number as a subscript to the left. For example, carbon-14 is written as 14 C, where 14 indicates the mass number. This notation succinctly represents the

isotope's nuclear composition.

Examples of Isotope Representation

Common isotopes and their notations include:

• Hydrogen-1: ¹H (protium)

• Deuterium: 2H

• Carbon-12: 12C

• Uranium-235: ²³⁵∪

This system facilitates clarity and precision in scientific documentation and education.

Applications of Chemthink Isotopes

Chemthink isotopes have widespread applications across many fields, demonstrating their versatility and scientific value. Their unique properties enable various practical and research-oriented uses.

Medical Applications

Radioisotopes are extensively utilized in medical diagnostics and treatment. Techniques such as positron emission tomography (PET) use isotopes like fluorine-18 to image metabolic activity in the body. Additionally, radioisotopes are employed in radiation therapy to target cancer cells effectively.

Environmental and Geological Uses

Stable isotopes help trace environmental processes such as water cycles, climate change, and pollution pathways. Radiometric dating methods, including carbon dating, rely on isotopic decay to determine the age of archaeological and geological samples.

Industrial and Technological Applications

Isotopes contribute to industry through applications in quality control, material testing, and energy production. For instance, uranium isotopes are central to nuclear power generation, while isotopic tracers monitor chemical processes in manufacturing.

Stability and Radioactivity

The stability of chemthink isotopes is determined by nuclear forces balancing protons and neutrons. Understanding this balance is critical for predicting isotope behavior and applications involving radioactive decay.

Factors Affecting Stability

Nuclear stability depends on the neutron-to-proton ratio, nuclear binding energy, and quantum effects. Isotopes with too many or too few neutrons tend to be unstable, leading to radioactive decay pathways such as alpha, beta, or gamma decay.

Radioactive Decay Processes

Radioactive isotopes spontaneously transform into more stable nuclei by emitting particles or energy. These processes include:

- Alpha decay: emission of helium nuclei
- Beta decay: conversion of neutrons to protons or vice versa with electron or positron emission
- Gamma decay: emission of high-energy photons

These decay modes are fundamental to nuclear chemistry and have practical implications in safety, medicine, and research.

Role of Isotopes in Scientific Research

Chemthink isotopes serve as indispensable tools in advancing scientific knowledge. Their unique properties enable detailed analyses and innovative methodologies across disciplines.

Isotopic Tracing and Labeling

Scientists employ isotopes as tracers to follow chemical and biological pathways. Isotopic labeling helps elucidate reaction mechanisms, metabolic processes, and environmental interactions with high precision.

Advancements in Nuclear Chemistry

Research on isotopes has led to significant breakthroughs in nuclear chemistry, including the discovery of new elements, understanding nuclear reactions, and developing nuclear energy technologies. This field continues to evolve with ongoing isotope research.

Isotopes in Climate and Earth Sciences

Isotopic analysis provides critical data for reconstructing past climates, studying biogeochemical cycles, and understanding Earth's processes. These insights contribute to addressing global challenges such as climate change and resource management.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are isotopes as explained in ChemThink?

In ChemThink, isotopes are atoms of the same element that have the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons, resulting in different atomic masses.

How does ChemThink illustrate the difference between isotopes?

ChemThink uses visual models showing the nucleus with varying numbers of neutrons while keeping the proton count constant to illustrate isotopes.

Why are isotopes important in chemistry, according to ChemThink?

Isotopes are important because they help scientists understand atomic structure, nuclear reactions, and have applications in dating, medicine, and tracing chemical processes.

How can ChemThink help students identify isotopes of an element?

ChemThink provides interactive simulations where students can manipulate neutron numbers in an atom's nucleus to see different isotopes and their properties.

What role do isotopes play in radioactive decay as shown in ChemThink?

ChemThink explains that some isotopes are unstable and undergo radioactive decay, transforming into different elements or isotopes over time.

Can ChemThink be used to compare stable and unstable isotopes?

Yes, ChemThink allows users to explore both stable and unstable isotopes, demonstrating their differences in nuclear stability and behavior.

How does ChemThink demonstrate the concept of average atomic mass using isotopes?

ChemThink shows how the average atomic mass of an element is calculated based on the relative abundance and masses of its isotopes.

Are isotopes covered in ChemThink relevant to real-world applications?

Yes, ChemThink connects isotopes to real-world applications such as carbon dating, medical imaging, and nuclear energy, making the concept practical for students.

Additional Resources

1. ChemThink Isotopes: Foundations and Applications

This book offers a comprehensive introduction to isotopes, covering their atomic structure, properties, and uses in various scientific fields. It is designed for high school and early college students, providing clear explanations and engaging examples. Readers will explore topics from isotope notation to real-world applications like radiocarbon dating and medical imaging.

2. Isotopes in Chemistry: Theory and Practice

Focusing on the theoretical aspects of isotopes, this text delves into nuclear stability, radioactive decay, and isotope fractionation. It combines rigorous chemistry concepts with practical laboratory techniques, making it ideal for students and educators aiming to deepen their understanding of isotopic behavior in chemical reactions.

3. Radioactive Isotopes: Principles and Techniques

This book explores the principles behind radioactive isotopes and their various techniques in research and industry. It covers detection methods, safety protocols, and applications in medicine, archaeology, and environmental science. The content balances technical detail with accessible explanations for readers new to radioactivity.

4. Isotope Geochemistry: Tracking Earth's Processes

Designed for students and researchers, this volume examines how isotopes are used to study geological processes. Topics include isotope fractionation, stable and radioactive isotopes in rocks and minerals, and isotope tracing in hydrology and climate studies. Case studies illustrate isotope applications in understanding Earth's history.

5. ChemThink Labs: Exploring Isotopes and Atomic Structure

A hands-on lab manual that complements theoretical learning about isotopes, this guide features experiments and simulations for students. It emphasizes active learning through interactive activities that demonstrate isotope identification, mass spectrometry, and decay processes. Ideal for classroom or remote learning environments.

6. Stable Isotopes in Biological Systems

This book investigates the role of stable isotopes in biological research, including metabolic studies and ecological tracing. It discusses isotope labeling techniques and the interpretation of isotope data in physiological and environmental contexts. The text bridges chemistry and biology, appealing to

interdisciplinary scholars.

7. Isotopes and Nuclear Chemistry: A Modern Approach

Offering a modern perspective on nuclear chemistry, this text covers isotope production, nuclear reactions, and applications in energy and medicine. It integrates current research findings with foundational knowledge, making it suitable for advanced students and professionals seeking an updated reference.

8. Environmental Applications of Isotope Chemistry

This volume highlights how isotopes serve as tools to investigate environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, and water cycle dynamics. It presents methodologies for isotope analysis in natural and contaminated systems, with case studies showcasing successful environmental assessments.

9. Isotopic Techniques in Forensic Science

Focusing on forensic applications, this book explains how isotopes help solve crimes through provenance analysis, age determination, and material identification. It details analytical techniques and real-world cases where isotope chemistry contributed to legal investigations, making it an intriguing read for forensic practitioners and students.

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ChemThink Isotopes

Book Title: Understanding Isotopes: A ChemThink Guide

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed (Fictional Author)

Outline:

Introduction: What are isotopes? Importance of studying isotopes. Brief history of isotope discovery.

Chapter 1: The Basics of Isotopes: Atomic structure, atomic number, mass number, isotopes definition and examples. Isotopic notation.

Chapter 2: Isotope Abundance and Average Atomic Mass: Calculating average atomic mass.

Significance of isotopic abundance in nature. Variations in isotopic abundance.

Chapter 3: Radioactive Isotopes and Decay: Types of radioactive decay (alpha, beta, gamma). Half-life and its applications. Nuclear equations.

Chapter 4: Applications of Isotopes: Medical applications (radioactive tracers, radiotherapy).

Industrial applications (radioactive dating, tracing materials). Environmental applications (monitoring pollution).

Chapter 5: Isotope Separation Techniques: Mass spectrometry. Gaseous diffusion. Centrifugation. Laser isotope separation.

Conclusion: Summary of key concepts. Future directions in isotope research.

ChemThink Isotopes: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: Delving into the World of Isotopes

Isotopes are atoms of the same element that possess the same number of protons but differ in the number of neutrons. This seemingly subtle difference has profound implications across various scientific fields, from medicine and archaeology to environmental science and nuclear physics. Understanding isotopes is fundamental to comprehending the behavior of matter at the atomic level and its applications in numerous technologies. This comprehensive guide will explore the fundamental concepts of isotopes, their properties, their applications, and the techniques used to study and manipulate them. The discovery of isotopes revolutionized our understanding of the atom and paved the way for advancements in various scientific and technological fields. From the early experiments of J.J. Thomson to the development of sophisticated mass spectrometers, the journey of understanding isotopes is a fascinating testament to scientific progress.

Chapter 1: The Fundamentals of Isotopes: Unveiling Atomic Variations

The atomic structure forms the foundation for understanding isotopes. An atom consists of a nucleus containing protons (positively charged) and neutrons (neutral), surrounded by orbiting electrons (negatively charged). The atomic number, represented by Z, defines the number of protons in the nucleus and uniquely identifies an element. All atoms of a particular element have the same atomic number. However, the number of neutrons can vary, leading to isotopes. The mass number (A) is the sum of protons and neutrons in the nucleus. Isotopes of the same element have the same atomic number but different mass numbers.

For instance, consider carbon (atomic number 6). The most common isotope is carbon-12 (12 C), with 6 protons and 6 neutrons. However, carbon-13 (13 C) has 6 protons and 7 neutrons, and carbon-14 (14 C), a radioactive isotope, has 6 protons and 8 neutrons. These are all isotopes of carbon, differing only in their neutron count. This isotopic notation (e.g., 12 C) provides a concise way to represent an isotope, clearly indicating its mass number and atomic symbol.

Chapter 2: Isotope Abundance and Average Atomic Mass: A Statistical Perspective

Isotopes do not exist in isolation. Elements typically occur as a mixture of their isotopes in nature. The relative abundance of each isotope in a sample is expressed as a percentage. This abundance varies depending on the element and its source. The average atomic mass of an element, as listed in the periodic table, is a weighted average of the masses of its isotopes, taking into account their relative abundances.

Calculating the average atomic mass involves multiplying the mass of each isotope by its relative abundance (expressed as a decimal), summing the products, and rounding to the appropriate significant figures. This average atomic mass is crucial for various stoichiometric calculations and chemical analyses. Variations in isotopic abundances can be observed due to factors such as geological processes, nuclear reactions, and fractionation effects. These variations can provide valuable insights into various natural processes and can be used as tracers in various applications.

Chapter 3: Radioactive Isotopes and Decay: The Unstable Nucleus

Radioactive isotopes, also known as radioisotopes, possess unstable nuclei that undergo radioactive decay to achieve a more stable configuration. This decay involves the emission of particles or energy, such as alpha particles (helium nuclei), beta particles (electrons or positrons), and gamma rays (high-energy photons). Each type of decay alters the atomic number and/or mass number of the nucleus.

A crucial concept related to radioactive decay is half-life. The half-life is the time it takes for half of the radioactive atoms in a sample to decay. Half-lives vary significantly among different radioisotopes, ranging from fractions of a second to billions of years. The predictable nature of half-life allows for the application of radioactive isotopes in dating techniques, such as radiocarbon dating. Nuclear equations are used to represent radioactive decay processes, illustrating the changes in atomic numbers and mass numbers during the transformation.

Chapter 4: Applications of Isotopes: A Multifaceted Impact

The unique properties of isotopes have led to a wide array of applications across various fields. In medicine, radioactive tracers are used to diagnose and treat diseases. Radioactive isotopes such as Technetium-99m are injected into the body and their movement is tracked to visualize organs and detect abnormalities. Radiotherapy utilizes radioactive isotopes to target and destroy cancerous cells. In industry, isotopes are used for various applications, including gauging the thickness of materials, tracing the flow of fluids, and sterilization.

Archaeologists employ radiocarbon dating (using ¹⁴C) to determine the age of ancient artifacts and organic materials. Environmental scientists use isotopes to monitor pollution levels and track the movement of pollutants in ecosystems. Isotopes provide powerful tools for studying and understanding various complex natural and industrial processes. The versatility of isotopes is continuously leading to new and innovative applications as research progresses.

Chapter 5: Isotope Separation Techniques: Isolating Specific Isotopes

Separating isotopes is a challenging task due to their similar chemical properties. However, several techniques have been developed to achieve this separation. Mass spectrometry is a powerful analytical technique that separates ions based on their mass-to-charge ratio. This technique is commonly used to determine the isotopic composition of a sample. Gaseous diffusion utilizes the difference in diffusion rates of isotopic gases to achieve separation. Centrifugation exploits the difference in mass to separate isotopes based on centrifugal force.

Laser isotope separation utilizes lasers tuned to specific wavelengths to selectively excite and ionize isotopes, allowing for their efficient separation. Each technique has its advantages and limitations, and the choice of technique depends on the specific isotopes being separated, the required purity, and the scale of the separation process. Advances in isotope separation technologies have significantly contributed to various applications, including nuclear energy, medical imaging, and scientific research.

Conclusion: A Look Ahead

The study of isotopes has revolutionized our understanding of the atom and its behavior. From fundamental scientific principles to real-world applications, isotopes play a crucial role in numerous fields. The ability to manipulate and utilize isotopes for specific purposes has led to significant advancements in medicine, industry, and environmental science. Continued research and development in this field promise further breakthroughs, leading to even more sophisticated applications and a deeper understanding of the natural world. The ongoing exploration of isotope science is not only fascinating but also vital for addressing many of today's challenges.

FAQs:

- 1. What is the difference between an atom and an isotope? Atoms of the same element always have the same number of protons, but isotopes have varying numbers of neutrons.
- 2. How are isotopes used in medical imaging? Radioactive isotopes act as tracers, allowing doctors to visualize organs and detect abnormalities.
- 3. What is the significance of carbon-14 dating? It allows archaeologists to estimate the age of ancient organic materials.
- 4. How does mass spectrometry work? It separates ions based on their mass-to-charge ratio, identifying and quantifying isotopes.
- 5. What are some industrial applications of isotopes? Gauging material thickness, tracing fluid flow, and sterilization.
- 6. What are the different types of radioactive decay? Alpha decay, beta decay, and gamma decay.
- 7. What is half-life? The time it takes for half of a radioactive sample to decay.
- 8. How are isotopes separated? Techniques include mass spectrometry, gaseous diffusion,

centrifugation, and laser isotope separation.

9. What are some environmental applications of isotopes? Monitoring pollution and tracking pollutant movement in ecosystems.

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- 9. Stable Isotope Analysis in Food Science: Explores the use of stable isotopes in food authenticity and traceability.

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chemthink isotopes: Students at Risk of School Failure José Jesús Gázquez, José Carlos Núñez, 2018-10-18 The main objective of this Research Topic is to determine the conditions that place students at risk of school failure, identifying student and context variables. In spite of the fact that there is currently little doubt about how one learns and how to teach, in some countries of the "developed world," there is still there is a high rate of school failure. Although the term "school failure" is a very complex construct, insofar as its causes, consequences, and development, from the field of educational psychology, the construct "student engagement" has recently gained special interest in an attempt to deal with the serious problem of school failure. School engagement builds on the anatomy of the students' involvement in school and describes their feelings, behaviors, and thoughts about their school experiences. So, engagement is an important component of students' school experience, with a close relationship to achievement and school failure. Children who self-set academic goals, attend school regularly and on time, behave well in class, complete their homework,

and study at home are likely to interact adequately with the school social and physical environments and perform well in school. In contrast, children who miss school are more likely to display disruptive behaviors in class, miss homework frequently, exhibit violent behaviors on the playground, fail subjects, be retained and, if the behaviors persist, quit school. Moreover, engagement should also be considered as an important school outcome, eliciting more or less supportive reactions from educators. For example, children who display school-engaged behaviors are likely to receive motivational and instructional support from their teachers. The opposite may also be true. But what makes student engage more or less? The relevant literature indicates that personal variables (e.g., sensory, motor, neurodevelopmental, cognitive, motivational, emotional, behavior problems, learning difficulties, addictions), social and/or cultural variables (e.g., negative family conditions, child abuse, cultural deprivation, ethnic conditions, immigration), or school variables (e.g., coexistence at school, bullying, cyberbullying) may concurrently hinder engagement, preventing the student from acquiring the learnings in the same conditions as the rest of the classmates.

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chemthink isotopes: Introduction to Graph Neural Networks Zhiyuan Zhiyuan Liu, Jie Jie Zhou, 2022-05-31 Graphs are useful data structures in complex real-life applications such as modeling physical systems, learning molecular fingerprints, controlling traffic networks, and recommending friends in social networks. However, these tasks require dealing with non-Euclidean graph data that contains rich relational information between elements and cannot be well handled by traditional deep learning models (e.g., convolutional neural networks (CNNs) or recurrent neural networks (RNNs)). Nodes in graphs usually contain useful feature information that cannot be well addressed in most unsupervised representation learning methods (e.g., network embedding methods). Graph neural networks (GNNs) are proposed to combine the feature information and the graph structure to learn better representations on graphs via feature propagation and aggregation. Due to its convincing performance and high interpretability, GNN has recently become a widely applied graph analysis tool. This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the basic concepts, models, and applications of graph neural networks. It starts with the introduction of the vanilla GNN model. Then several variants of the vanilla model are introduced such as graph convolutional networks, graph recurrent networks, graph attention networks, graph residual networks, and several general frameworks. Variants for different graph types and advanced training methods are also included. As for the applications of GNNs, the book categorizes them into structural, non-structural, and other scenarios, and then it introduces several typical models on solving these tasks. Finally, the closing chapters provide GNN open resources and the outlook of several future directions.

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December 1998 of the Evaluated Nuclear Structure Data File (ENSDF) and Nuclear Science Reference (NSR) file. * Additional data from several evaluation sources, including The Table of Superdeformed Nuclear Bands and Fission Isomers. * Updated isotope summary table as well as energy-ordered gamma ray and alpha particle tables-now included on the software (available from the book's website at www.wiley-vch.de/books/info/0-471-35633-6). * Updated appendices for elemental data, nuclear charts, and gamma ray energy standards. * Adoption of the 1997 IUPAC recommended heavy element names. * More than 25,000 references. * Convenient links to additional atomic mass, nuclear astrophysics rates, spontaneous fission, thermal neutron capture, and more. Plus, the Isotope Explorer 2.22 software lets you search the entire database by level scheme drawings, annotated tables, data plots, nuclear structure charts and keywords as well as download the latest data directly from the Table of Isotopes Web site. The 1999 Update booklet features a new comprehensive isotope nuclear structure table. In addition, it provides clear, step-by-step instructions on navigating the Table of Isotopes electronic content and accessing its Web site. System Requirements: PC, Macintosh(r), or UNIX(r) systems with double speed and sufficient RAM to run Adobe(TM) Acrobat(r) (see Adobe Acrobat Reader information in the book for specific system requirements). Included: Adobe Acrobat Reader(r) 3.02 for Windows(r) 95, 98, and NT and Linux 1.2.13 or higher; Acrobat Reader 3.01 for Windows 3.1; Isotope Explorer 2.22 for Windows 95, 98, and NT.

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atomic number (Z) and subordered by mass number (A), precedes the main table. It contains all stable nuclei, radioisotopes, and isomers that appear in the Table of isotopes.

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(ENSDF) and Nuclear Science Reference (NSR) file for Isotope Explorer.

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chemthink isotopes: <u>Isotope Dilution Mass Spectrometry</u> J. Ignacio Garcia Alonso, Pablo Rodriguez-González, 2013 This is the first textbook to present a comprehensive and instructive view of the theory and applications of this growing technique.

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chemthink isotopes: Magnetically Activated and Guided Isotope Separation Thomas R. Mazur, 2015-11-19 This thesis describes a proof-of-principle experiment demonstrating a technique for stable isotope enrichment called Magnetically Activated and Guided Isotope Separation (MAGIS). Over the past century many enriched isotopes have become available, thanks largely to electromagnetic separators called calutrons. Due to substantial maintenance and operating costs,

the United States decommissioned the last of its calutrons in 1998, leading to demand for alternative methods of isotope separation. The work presented here suggests the promise for MAGIS as a viable alternative to the calutrons. The MAGIS technique combines optical pumping with a scalable magnetic field gradient to enrich atoms of a specific isotope in an atomic beam. Benchmarking this work against the calutron using lithium as a test case, the author demonstrated comparable enrichment in a manner that should scale to the production of similar quantities, while requiring vastly less energy input.

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well as details about the production and detection methods used. At the end, a comprehensive table lists all isotopes sorted by elements. The book is based on individual paragraphs for each isotope, which were published over the last few years as separate articles in the journal "Atomic Data and Nuclear Data Tables". The work re-evaluates all prior assignments judging them with a uniform set of criteria. In addition, the author includes over 100 new isotopes which have been discovered since the articles published. This book is a source of information for researchers as well as enthusiastic laymen alike. From the prepublication review: "The explanations focus on the essentials, which makes the various chapters pleasingly compact. The phrasing is well understandable also for non-experts. This makes the book easy to read, even thrilling. I have to confess that parts of the manuscript I was even reading as an evening lecture in the bed, so exciting was the history of isotope discoveries." Sigurd Hofmann, Helmholtz Professor at GSI Darmstadt, Germany, and a leading expert in superheavy nuclei

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